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Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

CGB

November 26, 2013

John Greenewald, Jr.
[REDACTED]

FOIA No. 2014-040

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This letter responds to your recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) and assigned to the Consumer & Governmental Affairs (CGB) and the Enforcement (EB) Bureaus by the Commission's FOIA Office. Your request seeks copies of complaints filed with the FCC about the television show "Duck Dynasty."

CGB conducted a search of the databases containing informal complaints. Our search identified seven complaints responsive to your request, which are enclosed. Enforcement informed CGB that a search of its records identified no responsive documents.

All personal identifying information relating to the individuals who submitted or are named in the enclosed complaints or inquiries has been redacted based on Exemption 6 of FOIA, which permits agencies not to disclose files that would clearly invade personal privacy.¹ Some FCC employee names have also been redacted based on Exemption 2 of FOIA, which permits agencies not to disclose internal personnel rules and practices.²

The FCC receives many complaints and comments that do not involve violations of the Communications Act or any FCC rule or order. Thus, a complaint or comment does not necessarily indicate any wrongdoing by any individuals or entities named in the complaint or comment.

FOIA and FCC rules require the FCC to charge requesters for time spent searching for and reviewing responsive documents, and for copying them.³ Based on your classification as a representative of the news media, you are responsible only for the payment of duplication costs beyond the first 100 pages. Because preparing the response to your request falls within these limits, there is no charge for processing your request.

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(f).

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(2); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(b).

³ 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); 47 C.F.R. § 0.470.

If you think this response denies your FOIA request, you may file an application for review of this decision with the FCC's Office of the General Counsel within 30 days.⁴ Both the application and envelope containing it must be marked "Review of Freedom of Information Action" and the application should refer to FOIA Control No. 2014-040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Stevenson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Nancy Stevenson
Deputy Chief
Consumer Policy Division
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

Enclosures

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 0.461(j).

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003712920	IC Number : 13-WB15122060	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Unknown Media Types	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Content Criticism	Assigned Code Acronym : PCCR
Owner Rep Number : PCC66	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 8/26/2013 7:16:28AM	Date Closed : 8/28/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : SOUTH POINT OH 45680

Indecency

Date of Program : 08/25/2013 Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : 119 or 446
Time of Program : 08:15 PM City/State of Program : South Point, OH
Network : AETV or Discovery Program Type : Cable/Satellite
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film :
Duck Dynasty or Extreme Homes

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency : FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. : IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date : 8/28/2013
EB/IHD Exported Case : 9/18/2013

Problem Description

At first glance, the television screen is completely filled with vibrant color. Then the camera zooms out and you realize you've been looking at the crotches of young girls. This happens at least twice. This also aired during family time and, in my opinion, isn't appropriate at any time, let alone family time. We flipped channels to get away from the commercial so don't remember which one on which it aired.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003708156	IC Number : 13-WB15121519	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Indecent	Assigned Code Acronym : INDE
Owner Rep Number : TSR29	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 8/15/2013 12:20:22AM	Date Closed : 8/19/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : EDMONTON KY 42129

Indecency

Date of Program : 08/14/2013 **Call Sign/Channel/Frequency :** 118
Time of Program : 09:00 PM **City/State of Program :** Edmonton, KY
Network : A&E **Program Type :** Cable/Satellite
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film :
Bad Ink

Problem Description

An ever growing group of us have had enough with indecent programming coming into our living rooms. It is our intention to bring decent standards back to an acceptable level. A group of 14 people gathered in our home this evening to watch the premier of Duck Dynasty. This is an exceptional program and I would like for you to compare the rating of this show over programs like "Bad Ink", "Naked and Afraid", "Full Throttle Saloon"... The last three shows mentioned are among the targets we will boycott and fight to have removed! During the broadcast of DD, a family/Christian oriented program, previews for "Bad Ink" came on during commercial breaks. So, you have families viewing a decent program only to have the intrusion of indecent images throughout! Too many programs have indecent images of naked or scantily clothed females. Attempts to edit/blur body parts is a ridiculous assumption that decency regulations have been met. These programs are offensive and degrading to women and not acceptable for children. Families have varying time schedule and for you to assume children are in bed by "prime time" is absurd! We will no longer be told to turn the channel, look away or leave the room. Sexual images are in our living rooms, like it or not, 24/7 ! Explicit programs need to be removed! Commercials and previews need to be monitored and edited. There are many adult channels that can be purchased by those who desire and enjoy explicit materials. Do not air undesirable programs on regular cable and satellite channels! We do NOT want them!!

I suggest you make appropriate contacts with all channels that are forcing their idea of entertainment on a still highly Christian society! A&E, Disc, TRU-TV are just a few that cross over the line.

I thank you for hearing this feedback and look forward to improved television viewing in the future.

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003701806	IC Number : 13-WB15121100	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Unknown Media Types	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Content Criticism	Assigned Code Acronym : PCCR
Owner Rep Number : PCC66	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 8/1/2013 7:36:04PM	Date Closed : 8/2/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : DULUTH MN 55811

Indecency

Date of Program : 4/28/13
Time of Program : 08:00 PM
Network : A&E
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : Duck Dynasty

Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : A&E
City/State of Program : Duluth MN
Program Type : Cable/Satellite

Problem Description

Me and my family enjoy sitting around Sunday night watching one of my kids (age 10 & 8) favorite shows, Duck Dynasty. It is one of the few wholesome entertaining shows on television these day's. During the recent episodes of Duck Dynasty A&E has decided to air commercials that show nudity and sexual innuendo with little to no warning. During this most recent episode my kids witnessed a commercial for "Naked & Afraid" which showed male nudity for at least 5 seconds. They were very embarrassed as were me and my wife. A&E should only show commercials that are in line with the tv rating of the program on at the time.

Respectfully,

 b6

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003700099	IC Number : 13-WB15120919	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Satellite	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Content Criticism	Assigned Code Acronym : PCCR
Owner Rep Number : PCC66	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 7/29/2013 8:55:39AM	Date Closed : 7/30/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : BENTON AR 72019

Indecency

Date of Program : 07/28/2013 **Call Sign/Channel/Frequency :** Directv Ch. 265
Time of Program : 07:45 pm **City/State of Program :** Benton, AR
Network : A&E **Program Type :** Satellite TV
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film :
 During Duck Dynasty

Case Referred

Case Referral Agency : FCC/Enforcement Bureau
Referral Division/Dept. : IHD - Investigation & Hearings
Referral Date : 7/30/2013
EB/IHD Exported Case : 7/30/2013

Problem Description

My family was watching Duck Dynasty when a commercial for the new program Naked & Afraid came on showing men's NAKED REAR ENDS!!!! My husband and I both grabbed for the remote as our 9 and 5 year old daughters were watching!!!! Who puts this kind of crap on t.v. anyway???? NOT HAPPY AT ALL that my family can't even watch Duck Dynasty together without seeing naked butts on our television screen!!!

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003637449	IC Number : 13-WB15113524	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Unknown Media Types	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Content Criticism	Assigned Code Acronym : PCCR
Owner Rep Number : PCC66	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 4/10/2013 7:36:40AM	Date Closed : 4/12/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : MEBANE NC 27302

Indecency

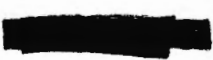
Date of Program : 04/07/2013
Time of Program : 18:00 pm
Network : all
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film : all

Call Sign/Channel/Frequency : all
City/State of Program : all
Program Type : Unknown

Problem Description

I am writing to oppose the proposal of allowing offensive materials to be shown & heard over the airwaves. We have already far to much being broadcast that is unwanted by the majority of veiwers. America wants clean wholesome programing, (the recent series "The Bible" that aired on the History channel being the "Most watched" tv program proves that. Also the program "Duck Dynasty" and it's popularity should prove what people want to see. The FCC & programers should WAKE UP, & stop trying to cram filth on us.

CLEAN IT UP, ALL OF IT,

 bb

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003540102	IC Number : 12-WB15105618	Submission Method : Web	Status : Closed
Level One : Broadcast	Level Two : Programming Issues	Level Three : Content Criticism	Assigned Code Acronym : PCCR
Owner Rep Number : TSR29	Creator : cgb.475	Problem Submitted Time : 12/29/2012 3:08:34PM	Date Closed : 1/30/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

City/State/ZipCode : PRINCETON KY 42445

Indecency

Date of Program : 12/29/2012 **Call Sign/Channel/Frequency :** 61 and others
Time of Program : 1:35 PM **City/State of Program :** Princeton KY
Network : NATGEO & Others **Program Type :** Cable/Satellite
Name of Program/DJ/Personality/Song/Film :
Wicked Tuna and Other Shows

Problem Description

My husband and I would like to know why so much profanity, taking GODs name in vain, and sexual enuendo is being allow on television programs and now even commercials. It was bad enough in the 70's and 80's but now it is not even bleeped. And that fat gutted alcholic strutting around on TV is sickening. It seems just about every show and commercial is formed around drinking. I don't agree with cigarettes on tv either but have never seen someone killed from someone smoking one cigarette. Have we lost all our morals that not even the FCC cares to regulate these actions.

We have four grandsons. Many times we think we are watching a show that we can enjoy with them just to find such raw sexual activity or profane language that we turn it off. So many times we think the show would be a good learning experience just to end up turning the channel to keep them from hearing and seeing things not good for them to learn. Just about every new show on TV is unwatchable, especially reality shows. It's not hard to find out about these shows. Just turn them on for a few minutes.

I do have to brag on Swamp Loggers and Duck Dynasty. Very little profane language and haven't seen any nudity or sexual perversion. I am not pointing out Wicked Tuna, I am trying to bring your attention to all the shows doing this.

Some of us do have morals, still respect our Christianity. GOD is still to be respected.

What we allow today, our children and grandchildren will see as normal.

How long will it take before full nudity is allowed? How long before the tv shows real people being shot down in the streets Grafically showing the bullets going in. It's almost there now. Maybe this is why we are seeing schools and churches being attacked.

Our children, our nation is at risk here. It's time action is taken. You need to do your job!

Case Information

Control ID : CIMS00003707226	IC Number : 13-R3707226	Submission Method : Email	Status : Closed
Level One : Other	Level Two : Call Center Email	Level Three :	Assigned Code Acronym :
Owner Rep Number : TSR58	Creator : [REDACTED] b2	Problem Submitted Time : 8/13/2013 1:32:47PM	Date Closed : 8/13/2013

Contact Information

Consumer Personal Information Omitted

Problem Description

From: [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2013 12:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Jessica Rosenworcel
Subject: TV Content
Jessica,

I'm not sure who to send this to. If it is for someone else, please forward this to the appropriate party.

Recent news has informed me that major network companies have sought to change content rules for our nation's biggest broadcasting companies. They feel that the rules are 'archaic' and that more people are turning to cable because of looser regulations. The show creators use the rhetoric that 'TV mimics real life, so we should be able to show more.' However, the TV lives these creators live, through their productions, show how far off their view of 'real life' is. I feel like the creators of TV shows are doing less and less to show what 'real life' is like. Even President Obama exclaimed his frustrations for some of the popular cable shows in the United States that show unrealistic lifestyles and exaggerated actions.

I believe that people turn to cable for popular shows because of their content and not because of their garbage. For example, Duck Dynasty is one of the most popular cable productions, and that show would easily pass the same content filter as something shown on PBS. Network TV stations aren't losing their viewers to cable because of restricted content, they are losing to cable because they have nothing worthwhile to offer. I've seen show after show that displays the rustic small-town with close neighbors and large amounts of scandals on network stations. Allowing them to show more graphic scandals would not entice me at all. To refer back to Duck Dynasty, the originality of the show comes from the strong christian family feel and refreshing innocent experiences, and not due to something like adultery from one of the brothers to one of the wives. When I visit different countries, I tend to avoid watching TV because they don't have the same FCC that we do. I hope that the FCC will continue to uphold (and even raise) the network TV standards that they have in place. It might not seem popular, but I know it would make many Americans feel much better about them, their families, and their future.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] b6
Student
Pleasant Grove, UT